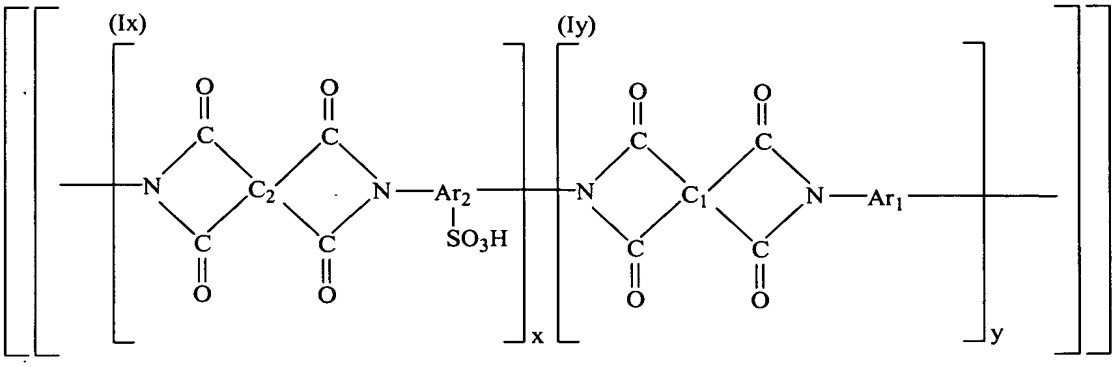
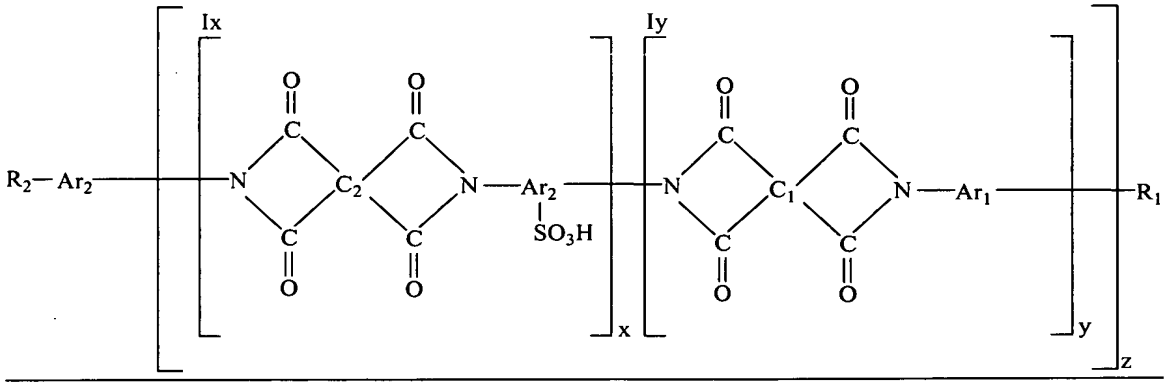
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Block sulfonated polyimide ~~formed by the~~ comprising blocks or sequences represented by ~~the formulas (Ix) and (Iy) as follows~~ formula (I):





in which:

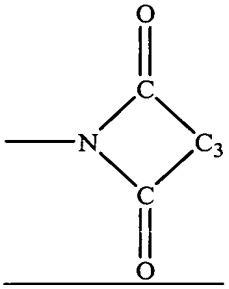
- x is a real number from 5 to 10 in formula Ix; and

- y is a real number greater than or equal to x in formula Iy;

- and the groups C_1 and C_2 can be identical or different, and each represents a tetravalent group comprising at least one carbonaceous aromatic ring, optionally substituted, having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and/or a heterocycle of aromatic character, optionally

substituted, having from 5 to 10 atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms selected from the group including S, N and O; C_1 and C_2 each forming, with the adjacent imide groups, cycles of 5 or 6 atoms,

- the groups Ar_1 and Ar_2 can be identical or different, and each represents a divalent group comprising at least one carbonaceous aromatic ring, optionally substituted, having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and/or a heterocycle that is aromatic in character, optionally substituted, having from 5 to 10 atoms and comprising one or several heteroatoms selected from the group including S, N and O; at least one of said carbonaceous aromatic rings and/or Ar_2 heterocycle being, moreover, substituted by at least one sulfonic acid group and where each of the groups R_1 and R_2 represents NH_2 or a group represented by the formula:



where C_3 is a divalent group comprising at least one carbonaceous aromatic ring, optionally substituted, having from 6 to 10 carbon atoms and/or a heterocycle of aromatic character, optionally substituted, having from 5 to 10 atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms selected from the group that includes S, N, and O, C_3 forming with the adjacent imide group a cycle with 5 to 6 atoms.

Claim 2 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to claim 1, in which the value of y is in the range from 5 to 40.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1 in which the value of x is from 5 to 9 and the value of y is from 5 to 10.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim [[4]] 1, in which in the formula (I), z represents a number from 1 to 10.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1, the equivalent molecular weight defined by the polymer weight in gram per sulfonic acid equivalent of which is from 400 to 2,500.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1 the molecular weight of which is from 10,000 to 100 000.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1, in which in the formulas (I_x), (I_y), and (I), C_1, and C_2 can be identical or different, and each represents a benzenic ring optionally substituted, by one or two substituents selected from the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms; or several benzenic rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group between them;

- C_1 and C_2 can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

- C_1 and C_2 can also each represent a heterocycle or a condensated heterocycle, with aromatic character, this heterocycle being optionally substituted by one or more substituents

selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

- Ar_1 and Ar_2 can be identical or different, and each represents a divalent benzenic ring with meta or para binding, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy with 1 to 10 C and the halogen or several benzenic rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group;

- Ar_1 and Ar_2 can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

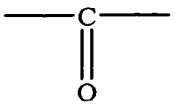
~~- Ar_1 and Ar_2 can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alcoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms.~~

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim [[4]] 1, in which in the formula (I), C_3 is a benzenic or naphtalenic cycle optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the 1 to 10 C alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups and the halogen atoms.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which the divalent group mentioned is selected from among:

- a divalent group derived from a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 10 C optionally substituted, by one or more halogens selected from among F, C1, Br, and I and/or by one or more hydroxyl groups:

- a heteroatom selected from among O, S;



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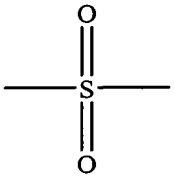

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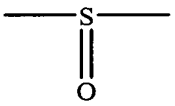

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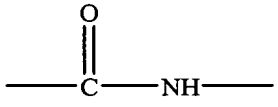

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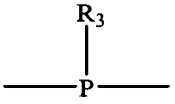

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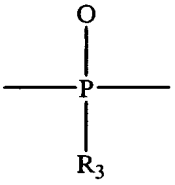

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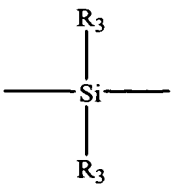

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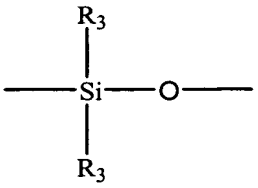

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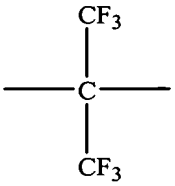

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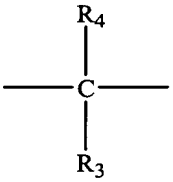


- a group ;

where R_3 and R_4 are selected from among the alkyl groups of 1 to 10 C ~~such as methyl, ethyl, and isopropyl, etc~~.

Claim 11 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 is a benzenic ring, and C_2 is a set of two benzenic rings linked by an oxygen bridge between them.

Claim 12 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 is comprised of benzenic cycles linked by one or more perfluoroalkylene groups and C_2 is comprised of benzenic rings linked by one or more divalent perfluoroalkyl groups or perfluoroalkylenes.

Claim 13 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 is a benzenic ring and C_2 is a naphthalene cycle.

Claim 14 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which C_1 and C_2 are both naphtalenic cycles.

Claim 15 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which Ar_1 is a diphenyl methane group, and C_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 16 (Original): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which Ar_1 is a benzenic group and Ar_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~Process~~ Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 8, in which Ar_1 is a diphenyl ether group and Ar_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic group.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): Membrane comprising a sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 1.

Claim 19 (Original): Fuel cell device comprising at least one membrane according to Claim 18.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): Sulfonated polyimide according to Claim [[4]] 1, in which in the formulas (I_x), (I_y), and (I), C_1, and C_2, can be identical or different, and each represents a benzenic ring optionally substituted, by one or two substituents selected from the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms; or several benzenic

rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group between them;

- C_1 and C_2 can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

- C_1 and C_2 can also each represent a heterocycle or a condensated heterocycle, with aromatic character, this heterocycle being optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

- Ar_1 and Ar_2 can be identical or different, and each represents, for example, a divalent benzenic ring with meta or para binding, optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy with 1 to 10 C and the halogen or several benzenic rings optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms, linked by a simple bond or by a divalent group;

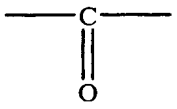
- Ar_1 and Ar_2 can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and ~~alcoxy~~ alkoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms;

~~- Ar_1 and Ar_2 can also each represent a condensated polycyclic carbonaceous group optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from among the alkyl and alcoxy groups with 1 to 10 C and the halogen atoms.~~

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which the divalent group mentioned is selected from among:

- a divalent group derived from a linear or branched alkyl group with 1 to 10 C optionally substituted, by one or more halogens selected from among F, C1, Br, and I and/or by one or more hydroxyl groups:

- a heteroatom selected from among O, S;



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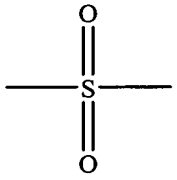

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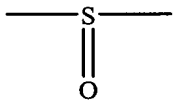

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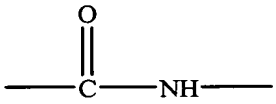

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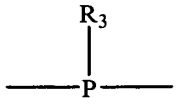

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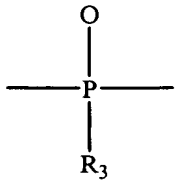

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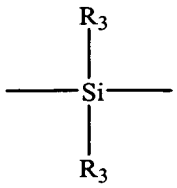

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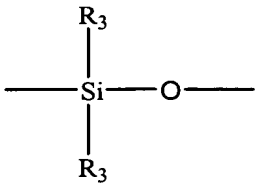

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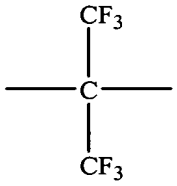

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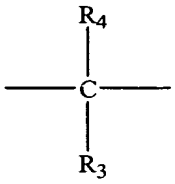

- a group ;

where R_3 and R_4 are selected from among the alkyl groups of 1 to 10 C ~~such as methyl, ethyl, and isopropyl, etc~~.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C_1 is a benzenic ring, and C_2 is a set of two benzenic rings linked by an oxygen bridge between them.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C_1 is comprised of benzenic cycles linked by one or more perfluroralkylene groups

and C_2 is comprised of benzenic rings linked by one or more divalent perfluoroalkylenes groups or perfluroralkylenes.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C_1 is a benzenic ring and C_2 is a naphthalene cycle.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which C_1 and C_2 are both naphtalenic cycles.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which Ar_1 is a diphenyl methane group, and C_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 20, in which Ar_1 is a benzenic group and Ar_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The ~~process~~ sulfonated polyimide according o Claim 20, in which Ar_1 is a diphenyl ether group and Ar_2 is a biphenyl disulfonic group.

Claim 29 (New): The sulfonate polyimide according to Claim 10 wherein R_3 and R_4 are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (New): The sulfonated polyimide according to Claim 21 wherein R_3 and R_4 are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, isopropyl and mixtures thereof.